Bangor Theol Sem.y March 14. '39

To the Soc.y of Enquiry —
Princeton Theol Sem.y —

Dear Brethren;

Your letter of July last was duly received, & should have been answered ere this — but some delay has been unavoidable from the confusion into which our whole system of correspondence was thrown; it is now in the hands of a regular & permanent body — our Society of Enquiry. — We were well pleased with your kind expression of Christian fellowship & affection, all which expressions & feelings we do cordially reciprocate, while we rejoice in that mystery of grace that so mutually unites us in Christ, to one Father, in heaven, & thus brings us — otherwise perfect strangers — into a relationship newer & of more true value than any other between mortal men. — Never can we express by word or deed, all the gratitude & praise we owe to the free grace of God. Having bestowed upon us the priceless favor of his redeeming & saving love, he has still further graced us by calling us, as we humbly trust, to be his ambassadors to our fellow men — the highest station of honor that power, — & the most privileged claim-ground for heaven's glorious rewards. — Being thus unspeakably blessed, how important is it that we should improve to the utmost the grace it is given us — that we should exhibit in our hearts & lives a full manifestation of the spirit of Christ — & so exemplify the principal grace of our religion, that the world shall be constrained to say, as in olden times, "Behold how these Christians love one another." — — Would it were in my power to take in that His heavenly state of things were realized in our midst. But alas every day's & hour's

Experience furnishes mournful proof that we have not yet attained to the fullness of perfect men in Christ Jesus — but are still far from the gospel standard. — The long time since the commencement of the Sem. year has indeed been one of uninterrupted pleasantness. All has prospered, so far as internals are concerned. The regular course of study has been ably followed & new vigor has been given to our efforts by a new arrangement of our Societies. Besides the Soc. of Inquiry — we have a "Seminary Association" consisting of three branches which meet alternately, one each week. — Here are the Biblical — Theological & Rhetorical — our Professors are their permanent presidents — appropriate topics are discussed in each & in all the Bible is held up as the standard of faith & practice. — We are instructed thoroughly in it principles & practice of its interpretation, & we are taught to make it at all times the man of our counsel & guide of our life. — .. — But while we are not neglectful of this part of our duty, there is reason to fear that we have not made corresponding advances in that deep & fervent piety of the heart, that unction from on high, that is so all-important to the Christian minister. — The causes which have led to this result, I need not enumerate; I know not that they have been different from those which are common to all Theological Seminaries — such as the disproportionate culture of the mind — & the failing of security which takes possession of us, & throws us off our guard. — We feel as if walking in a safe & peaceful region a sort of Beulah, where there are no enemies to trouble us, & our watchfulness ceases to be our protection; — the eye of faith, instead of becoming ever brighter & more discerning (as our high privileges ought to be) is closed with films & tending towards total blindness. — Besides these & other dangers common to all, we have been exposed to the tempting influences of the spirit of war which has pervaded the community. — The excitement around us has been great & has been thrust itself in upon the peaceful seclusion of our Seminary —

& I need not to dwell upon the hostility of the whole spirit & war to the gospel of Peace. — What reason & religion had taught us on this point, the slight experience we have had, has abundantly confirmed & impressed upon our minds. — The injury to the popular morals — the waste of property & health already occasioned — the profanation of the Sabbath, by exciting, collecting & marching troops — by the preparation of ammunition &c — by the circulation of news & discussion of the cause, almost in the house of God — the wandering thoughts even when the lips are restrained — the interruption of regular business — the dissipation of the public mind & more than all the evil passions so rapidly fomented & cherished — all these show the Spirit of war as a Spirit directly opposite to pure Christianity, & while they increase our horror at war, lead us to cling more closely & gratefully to that gospel of Peace, which alone can cause wars to cease unto the ends of the earth. — But notwithstanding the prevailing disquiet — God has not left himself without witness that he is gracious — he rains plenty & has poured out his Spirit & in some towns with remarkable power & glory — so that large numbers have been brought to lay down their arms, while the Prince of Peace has poured into y^e hearts the only true Peace — that of holiness. — " — I see I have left but little room to answer your inquiries. — The course of study here is similar to your own — the Biblical studies are entered upon by two courses each week, thro' the 2^d & 3^d years — & didactic Theology — after discussing each doctrine with the Professor, we each write a dissertation on it — to be read upon the class. — " — As to our state in general — it is not behind its sister states in good morals & observance of the Sabbath, tho' the back settlements, & newly occupied lands, will bear no comparison with the older counties. The destitution of ministers in these parts is owing somewhat to the want of pastors & somewhat to the lack of funds — but more than either, perhaps to the want of that union of mind, which might easily overcome these obstacles — & which is not so requisite as a motive to this end

in towns where the ministry has been long established. ——
Our towns are all divided into school districts in which schools
are supported by law — not always, or all the year. A school
for the larger scholars principally is continued thro the winter
months — for the younger children during the summer months.
In many places the school is continued throughout the year; &

Answered Aug. 13 th 1834

To the Society of Inquiry
Theological Seminary
Princeton
N. J.

in the cities & many towns there are Academies in great nos.
— I have not time to answer your questions more at large, but
must close, commending you to our Common God & Father, & praying
that he may crown you with every gracious gift. —

In behalf of the Soc'y of Inquiry — W. W. Rand
Corres. Sec'y